

For the Children

A Happy Farmer Boy
and His Pet Rooster.



Most city boys and girls might think a big, lusty rooster a rather queer pet, and so perhaps it is, but the boy in the picture, who lives in Indiana, has fine times in the company of his bird companion. He has had him ever since he was a wee chick, and they know each other very well. Every morning at sunrise Whitey begins to crow, and as he has a fine, clear voice the whole neighborhood hears him. His master, however, does not always respond immediately to his invitation to get up, but when he does he carries corn and water to his early rising comrade.

Some Queer Fiddles.

There are quite a number of people who collect musical instruments. Men have been known to pay tremendous prices for violins of rare make, merely to place these instruments in collections they were making of such things. One of the greatest fiddles that ever was known was to be seen at the French court in the time of Charles IX. This was a viol so large that several boys could be placed inside it. These boys used to sit inside this queer instrument and sing the airs that the man who handled the bow was playing on the viol outside. The effect is said to have been very beautiful, though it would seem as if the presence of the lads in its interior would seriously interfere with the tone of the "great fiddle," as it was called. Many years after another huge instrument of this kind was used at concerts in Boston. It was so large that to play it the fiddler had to stand on a table to use his bow at the proper point on the strings. This instrument was called "the grandfather of fiddles."

Slap Jack.

This is a game of cards played by not more than ten persons. The cards are dealt one by one and placed in a pile before each player face downward. Then in turn each one takes a card from the top of his pile and without looking at it plays it in the center of the table. When a Jack is thrown on the table all the players try to slap it, and the one who does so first takes all the cards in the middle of the table and adds them to his pile. The object is to obtain all the cards, and the one who succeeds in this is the winner of the game.

Why Shoes Have Tongues.

Every one that wears lace shoes knows that there is a tongue of leather under the place where the two sides of the shoe meet, but there is none in button shoes. Probably very few persons know that this is a comparatively modern idea and is not for the purpose of keeping the laces from hurting the instep, but is to keep out rain and snow. There would be no discomfort if the laces touched the sock; but, no matter how closely a shoe may be laced up, there is always a slight space which would allow rain to reach the stocking.

Dollar Trick.

Take a medium sized bowl, fill it to within an inch of the top with water. Then place in the water a dollar coin. Then you propose to the company that the one who can remove the coin without wetting the hand may have it. None will try it, thinking it impossible to do so. You have in your hand a little Hippodamian, which can be got at the drugist's, and throw it on the water, and you can draw out the coin without wetting your hand.

A Chinese Class.

In China, far across the sea, Where things are odd as they can be, You never heard such din and noise, As in the schools for little boys. From brightest pupil down to dunce They study all out loud at once— In fact, they fairly scream and shout At top of lungs their lessons out. To do our studies quietly In school is best for you and me, But sometimes when we have to sit So very still I think of it— How it would help like anything To ease us in our fidgeting If we could yell a bit, you know, As schoolboys do in far Nippon. —Youth's Companion.

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LONDON STORES.

When Customers Enter They Are Almost Compelled to Buy.

First and foremost the English excel in salesmanship. Once having got a possible purchaser inside the door, they reason he should be made profitable to them. The floor manager does not assume that attitude of royal indifference as with us. He watches the struggle between salesperson and customer. If the latter shows signs of escaping into the open with his purse intact another clerk is brought forward as a reinforcement. Some establishments still lay fines on clerks who do not effect sales, but the system of inciting the sales force to its utmost efforts by giving percentages is now coming into vogue.

The method that London stores have of letting a cash girl conduct a customer who has finished his purchases to a central cash desk and wrapping counter, where he stands in line, keeping an anxious eye on his goods till they are parcelled, seems to us archaic and cumbersome. An Oxford street merchant, however, reasons differently: "When a patron has finished his purchases he is better out of the way of new customers. English men and women prefer privacy when they are making purchases, which would be impossible were customers allowed to sit at the counter, awaiting their packages. Then the wrapping force works more rapidly when the patron watches and urges haste."

I did not see how that particular force could work any more slowly, but his other argument might have some merit.—Business.

SHEPHERD'S TAME GULLS.

Each Family Has Its Own Flock and the Children Feed Them.

There are many small villages in the world that have only one street, but Lerwick, in Shetland, besides having only a single street, possesses only one tree. There are no birds there, not even a sparrow, but the seagulls are plentiful.

The seagulls are the sparrows of Lerwick, and as such they have a greater share in the town's life than the sparrows of London. In the morning you will note that a seagull sits on every chimney pot. Seagulls swoop and hover over every roof in town. The air is full of their strange, high plaintive, haunting cries.

Every house has its own familiar seagulls and every street its own band of them. But they never mix. The children in each house have a pet name for their own particular seagulls, and having called them by those names, they feed them every day.

Each seagull knows what is meant for him. No bird attached to one house ever seeks to eat the food scattered from the house next door. He does not dare to do so. So all day long the seagulls hover and call over the roofs of Lerwick.

The people of the town, if they come across a little pile of rice laid out on the roadway, step over it with care. They know that it has been placed there for some seagull. And at night the seagulls leave their appointed chimneys and fly gracefully away to their resting places on the rocks of the Isle of Ness.—Fruit Magazine.

How Fishes Breathe.

By means of their gills fish breathe the air dissolved in water. The oxygen consumed by them is not that which forms the chemical constituent of the water, but that contained in the air which is dissolved in the water. Fishes transferred to water from which the air has been driven out by a high temperature or in which the air absorbed by them is not replaced are soon suffocated. They require aerated water to maintain life and they take it in constantly through their mouths and expel it through their gills, retaining the air. It follows that if the water in a lake should be completely cut off from contact with the air long enough to exhaust the supply of air the fish in the lake would die. It would take a severe and pretty long continued freeze to accomplish this, but it might happen and doubtless has frequently happened with a small body of water.—St. Nicholas.

Man and Woman.

Man is born an understanding and woman a love. The wife cannot enter into the proper duties of the man, nor the man, on the other hand, into the proper duties of the wife, because they differ, as wisdom and its love, or thought and its affection or understanding and its will. In the proper duties of men the understanding, thought and wisdom act the chief part.—Swedenborg.

Forgetful.

Jones—What have you got that string around your finger for? Brown—My wife put it on so that I would remember something. I forgot what it was. I'm keeping it on now to remind me to ask her what it was when I get home this evening.

The Canny Agent.

"Do you suffer here from malaria?" asked the visitor to Swampville as he looked over the villa plot proposition in that charming suburb. "No," replied the agent. "Fact is, I never knew you had the asthma."—Harper's.

Right in Her Line.

Gillet—The people in the flat above us are constantly fighting. Perry—Doesn't your wife object? Gillet—No. She likes to have a fuss made over her. —New York Times.

There is no great genius without a tincture of madness.—Seneca.

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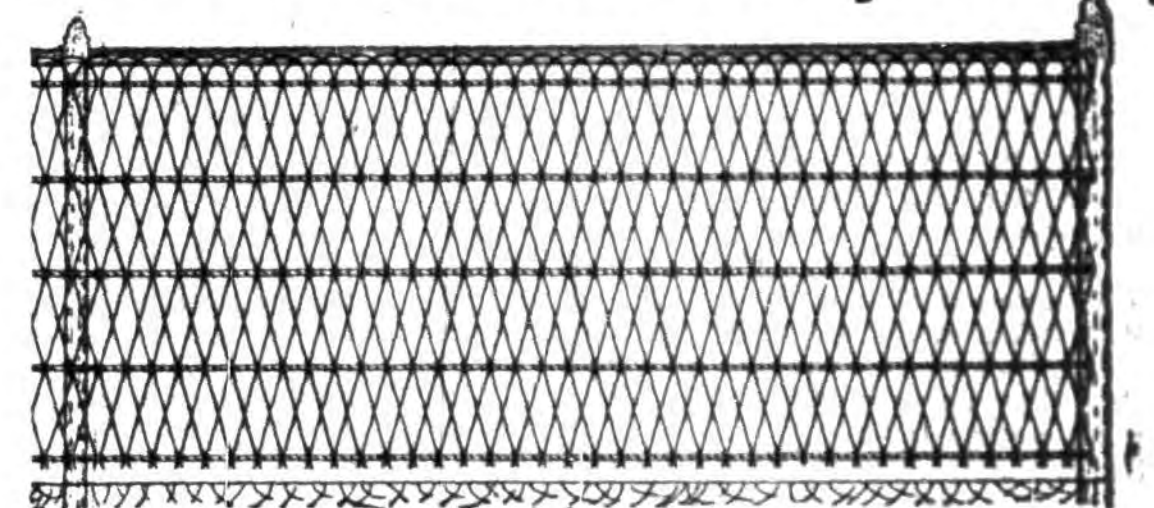
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